

I am writing this as a submission of objection, as I truly feel that this project should not be approved under any circumstances.

My reasons touch on issues of state heritage listing; mapped strategic land and classified equine critical industry cluster; threats to the region's connected water and aquifer system; and the issue of climate change

The entire Bylong Valley is an area of proclaimed state heritage significance. Tarwyn Park, the home of Natural Sequence Farming has been declared safe from mining by Kepco the proponent, but it beggars belief when mining will take place right up to its boundary.

This mine will directly open cut large swathes of mapped strategic agricultural land and classified equine critical industry cluster. This land cannot be replaced once lost to mining.

In the Upper Hunter, strategic agricultural land and equine critical industry cluster were two principles of land use that defined this region and in particular, the area that Kepco, the mining company, now wishes to turn into an open cut coal mine. Strategic agricultural land and equine critical industry cluster must remain off limits to coal mining, as the land use legislation intended.

This mine will devastate the Bylong River and its alluvial aquifer, threatening other water users and agricultural production. This region has supplied drought fodder in the way of lucerne and pasture for NSW farmers for decades because of the availability of water. In drought-prone Australia it is sacrilege to destroy such an asset.

As I am writing this submission the TV screen is showing the ravages of the wildfires in California as a fire tornado rages through that state, leaving over 200 hundred dead or missing, and over 7,000 homes and businesses destroyed.

Just one month ago on 10 Oct 2018 Florida was hit by the most intense hurricane ***ever in US history***

In Australia farmers are facing hitherto unknown changes to rainfall patterns and loss of rainfall. The peak bodies of the agricultural sector are expressing unprecedented alarm.

This is the face of climate change, happening right now.

The IPCC has released new warnings that global warming needs to be limited to 1.5 degrees and fossil fuels should be phased out quickly by 2030 to avoid catastrophic change. The NSW Govt has endorsed the Paris Agreement and has a policy for achieving our commitments to that agreement. However the life span of the Bylong Coal Mine is until 2044, and approval is inconsistent with this policy.

It is imperative that the Independent Planning Commission consider the IPCC report and its implications for the coal industry.

Please do not approve the new Bylong coal mine.

Diane O'Mara